



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Funding Highlights:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) works to protect human health and the environment by implementing and enforcing America's environmental laws.
- The 2021 Budget continues to support EPA's core work to ensure clean air, water, land, and safer chemicals and advances work on key priority areas, while reigning in unnecessary spending.
- The Budget would eliminate almost 50 wasteful programs that are outside of EPA's core mission or duplicative of other efforts, saving taxpayers over \$600 million. For example, EPA's Beaches Program funds State-run beach monitoring programs, which are now established and can continue to be implemented at the local level.
- The President's 2021 Budget requests \$6.7 billion for EPA, a \$2.4 billion or 26-percent decrease from the 2020 enacted level.

The President's 2021 Budget:

EPA supports a safe environment and a healthy Nation by helping to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water, and ensuring chemical safety. The Budget prioritizes innovative action to address priority environmental issues, such as contamination with lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Environmental protection must go hand-in-hand with a strong economy, as proven by America's continued improvements to air quality and public health while simultaneously growing the economy. The Budget promotes stewardship of taxpayer resources by reducing wasteful spending on duplicative programs and ensuring that grants are targeted effectively. Key deregulatory efforts, such as the implementation of Waters of the United States definitional changes, will reduce burden and create more certainty for American businesses. EPA's water infrastructure and clean-up programs will continue to spur investment and economic development while ensuring a safe environment for all Americans.

Prioritizes Essential EPA Functions. The 2021 Budget takes an efficient, effective approach to prioritize EPA's key responsibilities under the Nation's environmental statutes. Through cooperation with States and Tribes, local governments, businesses, and the public, EPA will continue to help provide safe drinking water, support attainment of national air quality standards, clean

Addressing PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of synthetic substances that have been widely used in industrial and consumer uses, such as non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, and products that resist oil. Because these chemicals do not readily degrade, legacy contamination means that most people have come in contact with these compounds throughout their lifetime. EPA remains committed to supporting States, Tribes, and local communities in addressing challenges with remediating PFAS and understanding the effects to human health. The Budget provides an additional \$6 million to address actions identified in *EPA's Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan*, such as continuing research and development to identify, test, and understand PFAS compounds, addressing current contamination issues and preventing future PFAS contamination, and effectively communicating these findings with the public.

up the Nation's most complex hazardous waste sites, ensure the safety of chemicals in the marketplace, and conduct cutting-edge environmental research.

Establishes a Lead Exposure Reduction Initiative. Millions of American families currently live in residences that can expose children to hazardous levels of lead through sources such as contaminated drinking water, household lead paint, and lead-contaminated soil. Children may also be exposed to lead in older schools. The Administration's Federal Lead Action Plan has set the stage to combat the multiple sources of this threat through commonsense solutions. The Budget would help to implement this plan through \$61 million in funding to support lead testing in schools, replacement of lead pipes, certification of lead paint professionals, and development of improved lead sampling and treatment methods.

Invests in Water Infrastructure for the Future. Funding for water infrastructure remains a priority in the Budget. EPA's State Revolving Funds are funded at nearly \$2 billion, which would supplement more than \$80 billion currently revolving at the State level. In addition, \$25 million in funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) credit program could support more than \$2 billion in direct loans, resulting in more than \$4 billion in total water infrastructure investment. To date, the WIFIA program has issued 14 loans totaling \$3.5 billion in direct credit assistance. Further, the Budget requests more than \$116 million in grant

funding for programs authorized in both the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 and the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. These grants would support a wide variety of programs to address drinking water and wastewater issues including lead contamination and sewer overflows.

Reduces Burden on Taxpayer Resources through User Fees. The 2021 Budget outlines commonsense legislative proposals to authorize EPA to administer several programs through the collection and expenditure of user fees. Administering select EPA programs using funds collected from user fees would reduce the burden on taxpayer resources. Entities benefiting from those programs would directly pay for the services and benefits that the programs provide. The Budget continues to propose to fee-fund the ENERGY STAR program, along with an authorization to fee-fund compliance assistance services related to risk management, spill prevention, and response planning at industrial facilities.

Supports Revitalization of Opportunity Zones. The Budget would provide \$80 million for grants to support assessment and remediation of brownfields—sites where development is complicated by prior contamination. A portion of this amount would be set aside specifically for projects in Qualified Opportunity Zones, ensuring that these resources are targeted to the communities where they can have the greatest impact. Cleaning up brownfields sites leverages other sources of investment in

these communities and promotes redevelopment and economic revitalization. For example, in Detroit's New Center District, brownfields grants allowed the Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority to invest \$915,000 to clean up contaminated soils, remove underground storage tanks, and eliminate vapor intrusion in a once-blighted neighborhood located in an Opportunity Zone. This investment leveraged tax credits and other incentives from the State, city and county to redevelop the site into a \$28 million medical supply facility that now employs 140 workers.

Promotes Innovative Approaches to Counter or Prevent Harmful Algal Blooms. Nonpoint nutrient pollution remains a significant challenge to water quality and can trigger harmful algal blooms that endanger human health and result in significant economic impact, such as the bloom that endangered drinking water supplies in Toledo, Ohio. In recognition of this problem, the Budget includes EPA funding for harmful algal bloom predictive tools, research, and nutrient trading initiatives. In addition, the Budget proposes \$15 million for a new targeted grant program to help prevent or respond to harmful algal blooms. For example, the grant could fund water testing efforts and water supply protection measures.

The Future of Detecting Airborne and Radiological Environmental Threats

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Federal Government developed the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). ASPECT is a single engine turboprop aircraft equipped with a suite of sensors and software that uses remote hazard detection to image, map, identify, and quantify chemical vapors and deposited radioisotopes. This information is used by first responders during natural disasters, environmental emergencies, emergency responses, homeland security missions, and environmental surveys. As the technology becomes obsolete, EPA must look to the future and plan for a replacement. The 2021 Budget includes \$1 million for EPA to crowdsource replacement ideas utilizing the <https://challenge.gov> website and framework.